

REMARKS

The Official Action requires a restriction of the pending claims to one of the following three claim groups:

- Group I: Methods of treating patients having disease diseases characterized by bone loss, by administering a TRANCE/RANK inhibitor (claims 1-20);
- Group II: Methods of modulating dendritic cell maturation, T cell proliferation and/or CD40 receptor systems by administering a TRANCE/RANK inhibitor (claims 21-40); and
- Group III: Peptides having the formula $R_1-R_2-R_3-R_4-R_5$ (claims 41-43).

Applicants respond, at the outset, by thanking Examiner Leonard M. Williams for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview on October 24, 2006 with Applicants' undersigned representative. During that interview, the undersigned pointed out that a Preliminary Amendment had been filed with this divisional application on July 22, 2006. That Preliminary Amendment canceled original claims 18-43, without prejudice or disclaimer. Hence, only claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application.

Because all of these pending claims correspond to Group I in the Official Action, it is believed that the requirement for restriction is moot. Nevertheless, to the extent that an election may still be required, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, to prosecute claims corresponding to invention Group I as set forth in the Official Action. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the Requirement, and reserve the right to petition therefrom under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144. Applicants respectfully request that the Requirement for Restriction be withdrawn, so that claims directed to any and/or all of the claim groups listed in the Official Action can be prosecuted together in this application..

Under Patent Office examining procedures, "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims directed to distinct or individual inventions." See, M.P.E.P. § 803. The

groups of claims designated in this Official Action are inter-related as directed to compounds that inhibit TRANCE/RANK activity, and methods using the same to treat disorders and/or modulate cell activities (for example, dendritic cell maturation, T cell proliferation and/or CD40 receptor systems). These claim groups do not, therefore, define methods or compositions which are sufficiently distinct to warrant separate examination and searches. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Requirement for Restriction be withdrawn, and that Applicants be permitted to pursue claims corresponding to any and/or all of invention Groups I-III.

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Respectfully submitted,

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